

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE RESTRICTION OF TAXI NUMBERS IN PERTH

Perth and Kinross Council is responsible for licensing taxi operators. As part of this, the Council can limit the number of taxi operator licences issued if it is satisfied that there is no unmet demand for taxi services.

The number of taxi operator licences within Perth City has been restricted since 1979. A limit was introduced at that time to allow operators to have sufficient confidence in the level of available business to enable them to purchase new vehicles. The current limit is 70. Limits under the current legislation have been in place since 1985. At that time a limit was put in place because of concern that if numbers were not limited, there would be a lack of investment in taxi services by operators, and that this would ultimately lead to a loss of taxi services.

Guidance now makes it clear that limits on taxi numbers should only be in place where there are exceptional circumstances which justify it. It is also the case that limiting numbers should be approached from the point of view of taxi users. Therefore the Council has now decided to review the need for limits on taxi numbers.

The first step in this process is to seek the views of the general public, the taxi trade and other interested parties in relation to the need to continue to have limits on taxi numbers. Accordingly, the Council would be pleased to receive responses to the following questions.

1 Do you think that placing a limit on the number of taxis has benefits for the public? If so, please tell us what the benefits are?

2 Do you think that placing a limit on taxis has any of the following effects, and if so explain why, or what your experience is in relation to this:-

- (a) reducing the availability of taxis.

(b) increasing waiting times

(c) reducing choice and/or safety

3 Do you think that placing a limit on numbers benefits the taxi trade, and if so how?

4 Can you think of any special circumstances which would justify limiting the number of taxis?

5 Do you have any other comment you would like to make in relation to the provision of taxi services in Perth and Kinross, for example in relation to quality of taxi service, customer care or any other issue you have?

Although we are content to receive anonymous responses, if you are happy to provide your contact details, please do so below. This would be useful for us if we wish to consult further on particular issues:

.....

Please send your comments by **18 December** to:

Perth and Kinross Council, Civic Government Licensing, Corporate Services – Legal,
2 High Street, Perth. PH1 5PH

Or by email to civclicensing@pkc.gov.uk